



PROPOSED ASPHALT PLANT DRAWS PROTEST

Century Acquisitions, which operates a ready-mix concrete plant and sand-and-gravel quarry on Clayton Rd., approached the town of Sheffield in November about adding a hot-mix asphalt plant to its facility. Century's property, some 100 acres, borders Route 7 and is mostly in Ashley Falls. Access to it is via a driveway from North Canaan, Connecticut's part of Clayton Rd. The plant is one of several owned by Bonded Concrete, a privately held cement and concrete manufacturer based in Watervliet, NY.

The proposed plant would include a new 75-by-75-foot pad on which the hot-mix equipment would rest and a 65-foot silo. The current Century plant has been on Clayton Rd. since the 1940s, well before Sheffield's zoning by-laws went into effect and the area was made part of the Rural District. The

existing plant became a "non-conforming use," meaning that it has the right to continue in operation as it was in 1994, when the by-laws were enacted. Under the by-laws, asphalt plants are not currently allowed anywhere in Sheffield.

Greg Marlowe, spokesperson for Century Acquisitions, says the company was told to go first to Sheffield's building inspector, Tom Carmody, who denied a building permit because the new use is not allowed. Carmody told the company to apply for a special permit from the Sheffield Zoning Board



The Zoning Board of Appeals hearing at Town Hall on Feb. 7.

of Appeals "for the alteration, change or substantial extension of a non-conforming use." Sheffield's zoning regulations say that the ZBA may not issue a special permit unless it determines the modification will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the original non-conforming use.

The special-permit application, when it became known to Sheffield and North Canaan residents during a ZBA hearing on Jan. 10, created public outcry and alarm. That hearing was continued to Jan. 24, when some 80 people packed the meeting room and spilled into the hall at Sheffield's Town Hall.

Much of the second meeting was devoted to concerns about the plant, including the additional noise it would create, its environmental impact, the possible long hours of operation—the current operation is allowed to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week—and the sparsity of trees screening the current

Continued on page 3

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, PRIMARY RESULTS

The Special Town Meeting held on Jan. 22 took care of its business in about an hour. Proposals to fund the replacement of the Library furnace and the Town Hall and Police Dept. telephone systems were approved without discussion, as was the request to fund an additional vocational school student.

The meeting discussed the fourth warrant for about 45 minutes. Many people spoke in favor of funding a new Senior Center. Dissent focused on the fear that approval would raise taxes and questioning why Sheffield needs a center when Great Barrington has one just down the road. The town voted by a substantial margin to authorize spending

not more than \$450,000 of town money to meet the local match requirement for a Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant. Results of the grant application should be known in July.

In the Massachusetts primary election, held on Feb. 5, Barack Obama and John McCain won in Sheffield. Results in the Democratic primary were Obama 376, Hillary Clinton 328, John Edwards 6 and other candidates 3. Results in the Republican primary were McCain 123, Romney 62, Huckabee 14, Paul 13 and Giuliani 2. Overall, Clinton won Berkshire County (14,868 to Obama's 11,614). In South County, only Lee and Mt. Washington favored Clinton over Obama.

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Working since 2001 to foster communication
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WOMEN SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

The Sheffield Emergency Management Service Staff is a group of women that supports the Sheffield Police Department and the Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department. These women are all wives, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, aunts, and cousins of a police officer or fireman in Sheffield. The group meets monthly. It started in 2002 with only a few members, but now there are 17 active members.

When the police and firemen are at an emergency call for a prolonged period of time, women from the support group go to the scene to provide bottled water, coffee, sandwiches and snacks. Last year, in 2007, the group responded to 10 calls, including structure fires, rescue calls on the mountain and calls for the fire department to provide mutual aid to other towns. So far in 2008, the group has assisted at one fire call.

The support group helps out in nonemergency situations, too. The women help the fire department at its annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast,

where they organize and run the raffle to benefit the Santi J. Gulotta Memorial Scholarship. For the past two years, the group has also provided desserts for the annual Kiwanis Steak Roast at the firehouse during Sheffield in Celebration. Every Memorial Day, the group provides breakfast for the police officers and firemen who participate in the Ashley Falls and Sheffield parades.

The group has also participated in many fundraisers. Last year it had a table at the annual Cookie Walk at Undermountain Elementary School, where women from the group sold baked goods they had made. Another fundraiser was a raffle for a crocheted nativity scene made by one of the members, Virginia Markham.

Upcoming fundraisers include a spaghetti dinner on Sat., April 5, at the Firehouse (the time will be announced closer to the event). The group is also considering sponsoring a Family Fun Day in July. Proceeds from both events will benefit the building fund for the new firehouse. —Rebecca Beham

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ASPHALT PLANT, *continued*

facility, which Century agreed to install when a special permit was granted in 2001 allowing expansion of the gravel excavation.

Neighbors of the site in Ashley Falls and North Canaan expressed concern about increased truck traffic and road dust, asphalt smells and health issues. Rene Wood, the chair of the Sheffield Planning Board, clarifying that she was attending as a private citizen, noted that the ZBA did not give residents and neighboring towns proper legal notice. She also spoke out against how Andrew Clemente, a member of the family that owns Century Acquisitions, interrupted and talked over speakers opposed to the plant.

Others at the hearing pointed out that ZBA alternate Jim Collingwood (also a Sheffield Selectman) had a conflict of interest, since the trucking company now run by his son does work for Century. Although town counsel said his presence was not a problem, Collingwood has since recused himself.

The meeting was continued to Feb. 7. Again, the meeting room at Town Hall was packed. Barbara West, chair of the ZBA, surprised everyone by reading a statement seeking a motion to close the public hearing and asking Century to withdraw its application "without prejudice" and resubmit the application. The statement said that the board members who would hear the new application would be West, Eric Carlson and Eric Blackburn. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

"The ZBA is waiting for Century Acquisitions to submit a new application and start all over again," West told the *Sheffield Times* just before this issue went to press. Until Century withdraws the application, however, the existing application is still open and the ZBA has to make a decision on it within 90 days.

Marlowe said in an interview that he owes the ZBA a letter withdrawing the application. "It looks at this point that we will be reapplying," Marlowe said. He went on to say that the company is trying to work with the town and "do everything correctly." He pointed to several similar operations in the area, including one operated by Lane Construction Corp. off Route 7 in the northern part of Sheffield. "A lot of operators dry aggregate," he said. "That's the biggest emitter in the operation. It's like burning heating oil."

People who attended the Feb. 7 meeting and did not have a chance to present their letters, expert witness statements and



The Century Acquisitions cement plant and gravel mine off Clayton Rd. and Route 7, on the border between Massachusetts and Connecticut.

other testimony would be able to do so with a new application. Among those letters was one from Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal opposing the application.

The new plant would have the capacity to produce up to 300 tons of blacktop an hour, which Marlowe says is considerably more than there is a market for in the area. The company currently supplies blacktop for the region from its plant in West Sand Lake, NY, between Albany and Pittsfield. As a heated product, blacktop can't be trucked more than an hour or so from where it's made, said Marlowe.

Alan Perkins, a New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation materials engineer with over 30 years of experience with hot-mix asphalt plants, has been hired by those opposed to the new plant. He says that expected production from such a plant could be 250 tons an hour, 10 hours a day, five days a week, which could produce 375,000 tons in a 30-week construction season. That would make it the largest asphalt plant in Berkshire County.

Opposition to the plant has crystallized on both sides of the state line. Rene Wood and Catherine Miller are founders of No Asphalt! Defense Fund, P.O. Box 1177, Sheffield, MA 01257. Kim Casey of North Canaan is a founder of Citizens Against Asphalt, P.O. Box 1154, North Canaan, CT 06018. Both groups are seeking donations to defray legal and other expenses.

—Andrea Scott

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COMING SCHOOL BUDGET MAY INCLUDE TEACHER CUTS

As this issue of the *Sheffield Times* was going to press, the school committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District was trying to finalize the school budget for Fiscal Year 2009 (which starts on July 1 of this year). As proposed, it would entail an overall increase over the FY 2008 budget of some 4 percent. Sheffield's share of the operating and transportation assessment divided by the five member towns would increase by around 5 percent, in part because the number of Sheffield children attending the schools has increased, by nearly 20, without a corresponding increase in students from the other towns.

As usual, most of the budget increase is attributable to higher staffing costs. The SBRSD will cover part of the increased expenditures by contributing about \$220,000 from its "excess and deficiency" reserve fund. SBRSD Business Administrator Christine Regan is concerned that the proposed withdrawal coupled with similar withdrawals in the past few years will reduce it to a dangerously low level

and leave the district unable to cope with emergencies and other unexpected expenses. She cautions that it would not be prudent to continue depleting the fund.

SPRIGGS TO TAKE NEW JOB

School Superintendent Valerie Spriggs announced that she will leave the Southern Berkshire Regional School District effective June 30 to take the position of school superintendent of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School District, a much larger school district just south of Natick, MA. She was chosen from among 20 candidates. Spriggs said that her departure had nothing to do with the strife among the five towns over the allocation of the budget.

—P. R.

The committee has also discussed eliminating three fifth-grade teaching positions—the teachers are retiring—as well as an administrator and a paraprofessional. If the fifth-grade positions are indeed cut, class sizes in the fifth and sixth grades would increase from 15 to 17 to about 24. At a recent school committee meeting, many in the audience criticized the move, saying that larger class sizes could lead more students to "choice out"

to other schools under the program that allows area students to choose which district to attend. (Last year the district lost 171 students and gained only 90 under the program. Since the district receives state funding on a per-pupil basis, a drop in the number of students means less state aid for SBRSD. Fewer students also makes it harder to justify advanced placement and other specialized classes.)

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A staff increase that seems likely to be funded in the final budget would be a math coach for the high school. The coach's assignment would be to help students having difficulty with mathematics before they fall too far behind, lose interest and stop trying. A similar "reading coach" program in the elementary school has proven to be successful.

Sheffield officials remain concerned about school costs that grow at a faster rate than the revenues derived from the town's tax base. Said Town Administrator Joe Kellogg, "With the proposed budget, we would be at or over our tax levy limit for FY 2009. It is difficult to see how we can avoid asking the voters to approve a Proposition 2½ override."

The state Commissioner of Education still has fiscal control of the SBRSD and must approve the new budget. Absent a compromise of the budget assessment allocation dispute among the five towns (see box below), the FY 2009 budget assessment will be allocated to the towns in accordance with the "statutory" method.

The school committee has scheduled a public hearing on the budget for Feb. 28 and is expected to vote on the budget on Mar. 12.

—Peter Rowntree

DEWEY HALL FOLK SERIES

On Sat., Mar. 1, at 7:30pm, Anson Olds and Friends will perform in Dewey Hall's continuing First Saturday Folk Series. Olds, who teaches music at Undermountain Elementary School in Sheffield, is a past New England flat-picking guitar champion. The suggested donation for the show is \$10. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (413) 822-1602.

MEANWHILE, WHAT ABOUT THE BUDGET ALLOCATION DISPUTE?

Attempts have been made to schedule another session of the state-sponsored mediation proceedings seeking to resolve the dispute over allocation of budget assessments among the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. But no meeting has been held as of late February.

On Jan. 7, the New Marlborough selectmen had unanimously agreed to bring suit against Sheffield for its refusal to pay its full share of the operating and transportation budget calculated according to the "alternate" method that had been used for several years. In late January, however, the selectmen of Alford, Egremont and Monterey asked New Marlborough to abandon the idea of litigation to facilitate the resumption of the mediation. New Marlborough agreed to defer filing a suit.

Also in January, some residents of Egremont had suggested at a joint meeting of the town's selectmen and its finance committee that Egremont transfer its 80 students now attending SBRSD schools to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District in Great Barrington. The terms of the regional agreement, however, make it difficult for any town to withdraw from the district without the consent of the others.

Meanwhile, residents of Sheffield and other towns have started a movement to reinstitute an elected school committee (see story on page 8). Officials from several other towns have said that such a change might facilitate a resolution of the dispute.

—Peter Rowntree



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TOWN PARKING AREA NEARS COMPLETION

By now, you've probably parked in the partially completed town parking area adjacent to Town Hall. You may have noticed the new stone wall and the planting beds just waiting for spring.

When warmer weather arrives, work will begin on finishing up the parking lot and its landscaping. The beds will be filled with their trees and ornamentals starting in April. The granite curbing and the final layer of blacktop will be put down by June. The ribbon-cutting, hopefully, will be able to coincide with the commemoration of the town's 275th anniversary on June 22.

The landscaping and amenities have all been donated. Without community enterprise and support—from companies, organizations and individuals—this large area in the heart of Sheffield would have been just an expanse of blacktop. Instead, plantings and walkways will anchor the historical buildings in the center of town—Town Hall, the Old

Stone Store, the buildings of the Sheffield Historical Society—and serve as a mini park for residents and visitors alike.

To date, donations include two park benches, a rack with room for 13 bikes and many trees. The Walk of Names from the Historical Society property to the Old Stone Store will be built of pavers, many bearing the name of their donor or honoree. So far, Sheffield residents and organizations have signed up for 45 large and 19 small blocks.

Many sponsorship opportunities remain, including trees, two trash receptacles and four light posts. Large and small blocks for the walkway are still available. Once they are laid in place, it will be difficult to add a name.

Organizers continue to seek donations. If you'd like to contribute, there's an order form at the bottom of this page. No donation is too small, and all donations will be recognized. For all who have already contributed, whether in money,

volunteer work or in-kind contributions, the ad hoc Parking Area Beautification Committee—Ronnie Bassett, Tammy Blackwell, Tony Gulotta, Julie Hannum, Joe Kellogg, Tom Ingersoll, Catherine Miller, Chris Tomich and Rene Wood—say thank you.

GARDEN WORKSHOP

A free workshop on how to cultivate healthy lawns and gardens will be offered this spring by the Center for Ecological Technology. The workshop, aimed at both the seasoned and beginner gardener, will show you how to use simple measures to create landscapes that will thrive without excessive use of chemicals, an approach called Integrated Pest Management. Landscape designer Sarah Shepard will be the featured speaker. The Great Barrington workshop will be held on Sat., Mar. 15, at 10am at Ward's Nursery. To register, call Ward's at 528-0166, or register online at www.wardsnursery.com.

YES! I'LL HELP ENHANCE THE TOWN PARKING AREA!

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MOON IN THE POND FARM BECOMES A SCHOOL, TOO

In early February the barnyard and surrounding pastureland at Moon in the Pond Farm are ice-covered and slippery. A Scottish Highland bull wanders a path along the ridge to the water tank. A gaggle of Pilgrim geese huddle in the gravel at the edge of the road. In the hen house, the chickens cluck and murmur, and the sheep take small, mincing steps down an icy slope. But the middle of winter has passed and with the turn of the season, the quiet will give way to the bustle of life on a teaching farm.

Dominic Palumbo, owner of the property on Barnum St., is farmer, teacher, landsman, and businessman all rolled into one wiry frame topped with a mop of thick, wavy hair and a pair of rimless glasses. Thoughts about organic gardening, sustainable living, the preservation of historic animal breeds, community involvement, conservation, and biodiversity pour out of him in an articulate torrent. In addition to running the farm, he has recently established the New Farmers Program, a year-long apprenticeship program.

The program is funded by contribution of labor by the students and by contributions and grants. So that contributions can be tax deductible, Dom has established Farm Education, Inc., and applied for non-profit status as a 501(c)3 organization. The money will help with one of Dominic's biggest challenges—taking the time to teach and share the lessons of the farm while keeping it working and viable.

The program attracts a wide variety of people, as young as 20 and old as 50, from all around the U.S. and the world, and aims to train new sustainable-practice farmers. Applicants must be dedi-

cated to acquiring the skills of community-based agriculture. Two or three full-year apprentices and four or five seasonal interns live in the large, rambling farmhouse, participate in all of the tasks required to run a small farm and study a wide variety of farm-related subjects. The program is intended to foster a sense of responsibility and respect for the environment along with a sense of personal relationship with the earth, the local community and beyond that to the global community.

Rounding out the farm school's curriculum are outreach programs, farm and life-skills workshops and farm tours. In the works are a farm-to-farm apprentice program, delegations to Terre Madre and an international small food producers' conference held by Slow Food in Turin, Italy. (For more on the program, see www.mooninthepond.com.)

Dominic knows about teaching farm skills because he had to teach himself. Coming to Sheffield 17 years ago via a circuitous route from New York City to London to New Jersey, back to New York, and finally to the old Drury farm on Barnum St., Dominic brought with him the gardening skills that had made him a successful city landscaper. "I wanted a place to do the things for myself that I was doing for others," he explains.

Soon after, a co-worker in New York City asked him to contribute his produce to a new organic "Green Market" there. Once he'd filled out the very thorough application, Dominic realized he had a full-blown farm plan. One thing led to another. He bought sheep to keep the pasture grasses mowed and chickens to fill the



Dominic Palumbo at the door to his farm house.

empty hen house. He learned about animal husbandry and meat production, which encouraged an interest in preserving historic animal breeds. His organic gardening practices taught him the necessity of vegetable seed banks. "An astounding number of livestock breeds and food plant varieties are becoming extinct," he says. "We need to understand that genetic diversity is necessary for bio-security. Diversity enriches and protects us."

A commitment to conserve, and a need to address what he saw as a lack of information and knowledge about diversity, encouraged Dominic to establish the farm's Open Gate program, which allows visitors to take a self-guided tour of the farm and ask questions of the staff and apprentices. The program is free, though donations are gratefully accepted. Repeated questions by visitors were the impetus for turning the farm into an educational enterprise.

Seeing what he calls an overwhelming movement toward caring about the planet and each other, Dominic wants to draw on the knowledge he's acquired over the last 17 years and share it with the community. "Sheffield does not have an assured local food supply," he says. "That could be a disaster on a practical level. My objective is to keep growing forward. I have a vision of a farm school that operates as a very substantial force in the community, providing food, education and an awareness of the interdependency that builds a vital rural society."

—Pauline Clarke

Some of the topics taught at Moon in the Pond Farm:

Compost	Pasture Management
Milking	Gardening 101
History of Agriculture	Beekeeping
Historic Breeds	Farm and Garden Tools
Pigs	Hay 101
Basic Cooking	Tractor
Greenhouse/Hoophouse	Farm Equipment
Chickens	Canning and Preserving
Beef Cows	Lacto-Fermentation
Vegetable Production	Farm Bookkeeping
Conflict Resolution	Mushroom Growing
Sales and Marketing	Cured Meat
Soil Science	Tree to Woodstove: Firewood

PETITION CIRCULATING CALLS FOR ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A group of residents from Sheffield and the other towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is circulating a petition calling for an amendment of the regional agreement that governs the SBRSD to provide for an elected rather than an appointed school committee.

Currently, the school committee has 10 appointed members, four from Sheffield, two each from Egremont and New Marlborough and one each from Alford and Monterey. The number of committee members per town, which dates back to the formation of the school district in the 1950s, would not be changed under the proposal.

Of the 60 similar school committees in Massachusetts, 58 are elected and only one other appointed. The Berkshire Hills Regional School District, which comprises Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge has had an elected committee since the 1980s. In that district, Great Barrington sends two-thirds of the students and elects half the school committee. Having an elected school committee follows the widely held principle that management of public education should be separate and insulated from direct or indirect control by local government.

The SBRSD school committee was elected until 1998, after the agreement settling the "one person, one vote" litigation

amended the regional agreement so that each town's representatives to the school committee were appointed by that town's selectmen.

In that litigation, instituted in 1996, Sheffield town officials and some town residents were trying to rectify what was perceived by many in town as a violation of the right to equal representation. Sheffield, which has long sent more than half the students to the school, has always had only 40 percent of the votes on the board. However, those four representatives actually can form a powerful block, since school committee rules require a two-thirds vote to approve school budgets, so if Sheffield's representatives all vote the same way, they can effectively veto a proposal.

Many say that lurking behind the issue of "one person, one vote" was the concern that Sheffield was not able to control school costs, which its taxpayers paid the largest share of. Yet voters of any of the five towns can exercise control over the school budget at town meeting—every year each town must vote to approve the school budget.

According to Sheffield resident Denis Sears, the spokesman for the group organizing the move toward an elected committee, the petition is being circulated pursuant to Section 14E of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

That statute permits a regional school district to amend its regional agreement to provide for the "... elect[ion of] members with residency requirements in district-wide elections to be held at the biennial state elections."

That means, in the case of the SBRSD, that each town would vote for the number of representatives it currently sends to the committee, and every voter in the district would be able to vote for each town's slate. Representatives would have to be residents of the town.

If the petition is signed by 200 or more registered voters in the school district, the regional agreement would require each town's Board of Selectmen to put the proposed amendment on the warrant for each town's next town meeting. The amendment would go into effect if it was approved by a majority of the voters at each of these meetings.

Petitions were being circulated at the end of February. According to Sears, the amendment could be voted on by the five towns as early as this May. If it is approved, the first election of school committee members could occur in November. Since some of the incumbent school committee members are serving terms that expire in June 2009 and 2010, the new system would not be fully phased in until 2010. —Peter Rowntree

TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL IN APRIL FEATURES CANADIAN BAND

The Sheffield community is invited to attend a "Celebration of Traditional Music and Dance," on Fri., April 4, and Sat., April 5. The three events in the program are free and open to the public.

The celebration will highlight a group from Montreal called the Reveillons, which performs the traditional music, songs and dance of Quebec, an amalgam of French, Scottish and Irish styles. "Reveillons" is French for "awaken." The group, founded in 1996, aims to "reawaken the traditions and culture that lie dormant within each of us."

On Friday at 7:30, an evening of music at Dewey Hall entitled "From Sheffield, England, to Sheffield, Massachusetts" will include both the Reveillons and the local Mountain Laurel Band, led by Joe Baker. Joe's band has long provided music for the monthly contra dances held at the Sheffield Grange.

On Saturday afternoon at 2, step dance and instrumental workshops will be held at Dewey Hall for participants of all ages. That evening at 7:30, the Reveillons will present a show and dance at the Undermountain Elementary School cafeteria, featuring fiddle, jaw harp and feet as a percussion instrument,

with step dance and a caller for the contra dance. Refreshments will be served by the Sheffield American Legion Auxiliary.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center, the Sheffield Friendly Union, Tom Ingersoll (chair of the Dewey Hall First Saturday Folk Music Series), the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the American Legion Auxiliary. Co-chairs of the program are Pauline Schumann and Priscilla Cote.

The Friends of the Senior Center intends the program as a way to thank the community for supporting the proposal to build a new senior activities center. The Sheffield Friendly Union wants everyone to know what a great resource Dewey Hall is for the community.

Schumann, president of the Friends of the Sheffield Senior Center, says, "I am very excited about this special weekend where musicians will help us say thank you for all the support the community has given us."

For more information, call Pauline at 229-9052 or email her at paulschm4@aol.com. —Ellen Rowntree

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Mount Everett welcomes KiDmocracy Students From Egypt
The Southern Berkshire Regional School District is continuing the unique educational exchange program begun last year, KiDmocracy. This year, Mount Everett eighth-grade families hosted a delegation of 13 middle school students, and three of their teachers, from 12 participating schools in Cairo, and Alexandria, Egypt. The visit took place Jan. 31 to Feb. 14, culminating with a field trip for 13 Mount Everett students and their guests to New York City and Washington, D.C.

The program, sponsored by the Afro-Egyptian Human Rights Organization in Egypt and funded by the U.S. State Dept., has the support of Senator John Kerry, State Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli, and the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Activities at the school were coordinated by middle-school social studies teachers Mike Farmer and John Hamill. Said Mike, "It's rewarding to see that Mount Everett Regional School is at the center of a cutting edge educational program like this."

The community has been supportive of the program, with special events sponsored by Berkshire Bank, Catherine's Chocolates, Jane Iredale Cosmetics, Michelle's Salon and Day

KIDMOCRACY: BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

"It wasn't the democracy I knew before I came here. Now I have the idea the I can change and hopefully we all can change," reads the final writing assignment of one of KiDmocracy's Egyptian students.

Imagine Egypt: camels, pyramids, and tan men with "towels" on their heads. If you told Lexi Ovitt, a Mount Everett 8th grader, that that was what Egypt was she would disagree. Lexi, who went to Egypt this past year, says that KiDmocracy has changed her as a person, by introducing her to exciting experiences and new people. "They're very curious," Lexi said, "They want to know what we think of them and their people."

"It provides an important link to two different cultures at a people-to-people level," says Michael Farmer, a middle-school teacher at Mount Everett. "It's a unique way to banish stereotypes that students have about Egypt and the Middle East."

Farmer created this program with an Egyptian friend, Engiel El Haddad. He says it was "born in his garden, one afternoon" when they were trying to formulate a plan to link Egyptian and American students. Farmer's idea behind KiDmocracy is that "the best way to generate a peaceful and understanding world is to educate the younger generation."

This experience is eye-opening for both the Mount Everett students and the Egyptian students and teachers. In a final assignment before his departure, Youssef Basha wrote, "I learned from our talks with seniors in Mr. Hamill's class and in the Railroad St. Youth Project that we, the youth, hold the keys to the future in our hands." He goes on, "I feel like I've undergone a process of enlightenment and mind opening more than I have an educational process..."

By the end of the Egyptian's two weeks in Sheffield, the students from each country find that the others are no longer foreigners. Writes Sandy El Sabbagh, "We were all like sisters and brothers. I didn't think that (or feel) that we were from different countries and from different cultures."

That is exactly what Farmer and everyone else hope to instill.

—Amanda Smith, Mt. Everett junior

Spa, Kenver's, Berkshire South Community Center, the Triplex and the Railroad Street Youth Project.

Agricultural Advisory Committee to meet

The Agricultural and Environmental Advisory Committee's first meeting will take place at Mt. Everett on Mon., March 3, at 6pm. Anyone interested in supporting agricultural and environmental education in the school district, including the newly chartered Mt. Everett Regional FFA Chapter, is welcome to attend. Contact Cassie Uricchio, agri-science teacher and FFA advisor at curicchi@tek2000.net or 413-229-8734 ext 135 for more information.

Music Dept. announces band and chorus winners

The Music Dept. announced that six Mount Everett Regional School students have been selected to perform in the Western District band or chorus performances to be held at the University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center on Sat., Mar. 15.

Chosen for the chorus are Hannah Guidi, a junior from Southfield, Mitch Moulton, a senior from Sheffield and sophomores Alyssa O'Connor from North Egremont and Emily Crawford from Sheffield. Crawford scored high enough to qualify for the All State Chorus as well. The district's choral program is under the direction of Nancy Loder.

Chosen for the band were Kayla Alden, a freshman from Sandisfield, and Nina Scibelli, an 8th grader from Sheffield. The band program is under the baton of Eric Blackburn.

'South Pacific' comes to Mt. Everett

The Music Dept. will present Rodgers & Hammerstein's beloved musical "South Pacific" on Fri. and Sat., Mar. 14 and Mar. 15 at 7pm, and again on Sun. Mar. 16 at 2pm at the Consolati Performing Arts Center at Mount Everett Regional School.

Maddy Maggio plays Ensign Nellie Forbush, and Mitch Moulton Emile de Becque. Danielle Dillon appears as Bloody Mary, and Alex Crawford as Lt. Joseph Cable. The characters of Ngana and Jerome, Emile's illegitimate children are being played by third graders Meadow Wicke and Eli Gold. Travis Daly directs. Nancy Loder is music director, Kristine Waterman choreographer, Rick Blackburn conductor of the pit orchestra and Hilda Banks Shapiro pianist.

Tickets are \$10 for seniors and students, \$12 for general admission. Reserve tickets at the box office; call 229-8252.



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CHURCH NEWS

Old Parish

On Sat., March 29 at 5:30pm, the Mission Committee of Old Parish Church will host a Western-themed supper and talent show in Fellowship Hall. The talent show begins at 6:30pm. Cowboy hats, boots and guitars are welcome.

This annual event will benefit, through a free-will offering, senior citizens in Osmanabad, a small village in India. The seniors have no children to support them. Every \$150 raised allows one of them access to a senior center where they can share meals and enjoy companionship. We now support seven men and women.

The project is the result of a visit by missionary Sudhakar Telore more than 20 years ago. He stayed with Kingsley and Sally Kelly, who later visited him in India and became aware of the seniors' need. The program is now run by Telore's son, Vinit.

Every year the Mission Committee puts on a supper and talent show to raise the money. In the past, we've had

open-mike shows, a beach party and a Mardi Gras-themed show. This year's Western dinner and show are a family affair. For reservations, call the church at 229-8173 or Marion Whitman at 528-6013.

The Sheffield Food Program

We continue to receive outstanding support from the community, and our churches continue to deliver food almost

every week. Undermountain Elementary School has been wonderfully generous, and the barrel at Berkshire Bank has given a steady supply of non-perishables. But there's still a need for contributions. High on the wish list: paper goods, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toiletries, cereal and soups.

You can send food to school with your kids, drop food off at Berkshire Bank or give at your church.

—Marcia Brolli

COMMUNITY MEALS AT AMERICAN LEGION

After taking place at the St. Peter's Parish Center in Great Barrington for many years, the Breaking Bread Community Meal is now located at the American Legion Hall on Route 7 in Sheffield. The meal, which is free, provides good food and companionship every Thursday evening from 5:15 to 7pm. A complete meal of soup, salad, bread, main course, dessert and coffee or tea, is served.

Anywhere from 65 to 100 people attend each week. The people who come are diverse. Some are from our local life-sharing homes. Some are elderly or needy, others just lonely and in need of companionship. Friendships are made or continued. The meal accommodates all and all are welcome. Nine groups of volunteers from both religious and community organizations take turns serving on a rotating basis. For further information, call Mel Greenberg at 413-528-4201

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of S. Berkshire. Meets at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main St. 528-4850; home 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm service. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist, 640 North Main St. 229-0400. Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am Worship Service; 6pm Evening Service; Wednesday: 7pm Bible Study. Barton Keller, Pastor

Old Parish (Congregational), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Morning Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wednesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: George Karl



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GARDEN TIME IN SHEFFIELD

I have a gardening friend who likes to remind me that the best time to perform a garden task is when you have the time to do it. But we agree that some tasks are best done at certain times of the year. Perhaps like myself you keep certain dates in mind to help you remember when to do these things. I always plant garlic before Halloween, seed my second crop of kale by my daughter's July birthday and get the peas in the ground by the first weekend in April. And what Berkshire gardener doesn't time the planting of tender annual flowers and vegetables with Memorial Day?

What did gardeners do before calendars and timepieces? Plants were domesticated about 10,000 years ago, and people were gathering nuts and berries for millennia before that. These early gardeners had the cyclic nature of the natural world around them to help keep track of things. The circadian rhythm of light and dark, the circalunar phases of the moon and the circannual rhythm of seasons all had great importance. But there were other timekeepers

for our ancestors—the flower, fruit, and seed cycles of plants, the annual migrations of animals and emergence of insects.

Today, the study of the timing of recurrent natural phenomena is called phenology, from a Greek word meaning the study of appearances. It's a way of letting nature tell us when it's time to plant seeds or put plants out, when to fertilize and when to manage insect pests. The method is actually a more sensitive and reliable timepiece than the calendar, since it takes into account vagaries of the weather. If you've ever read the Farmer's Almanac, you'll recognize some of the concepts, since it uses phenology for some of its recommendations.

Here are some phenological references I have come across. Use them, and start

LET NATURE SYNCHRONIZE YOUR GARDEN

- ☛ Plant potatoes when the shad bush flowers. This is also around the time that gypsy moth eggs hatch.
- ☛ When forsythia and crocus are blooming, it's the time to prune roses and fertilize the lawn.
- ☛ Tomatoes can be set out when lily-of-the-valley is in full bloom.
- ☛ When you see new growth on wild grapes, it's safe to plant tender vines, annuals and perennials.
- ☛ When the common lilac is in early bloom, crabgrass seed is starting to germinate.
- ☛ When catalpas and mock oranges bloom, sow cabbage and broccoli seeds for a fall crop.
- ☛ Japanese beetles often arrive when morning glory vines finally start to take off and begin to climb.
- ☛ When dandelions are blooming, plant beets, lettuce, spinach and carrots.
- ☛ It's time to plant peas when you hear spring peepers.
- ☛ Plant corn when apple blossoms start to fall.
- ☛ Put out morning glory seed when maple leaves reach full size.
- ☛ Mulch tomatoes when they start to blossom.
- ☛ To control boxwood leaf miner, use horticultural soap when the weigela blooms.
- ☛ Fertilize evergreens when maple leaves fall.

to notice your own. When you do, share them with other gardeners. Isn't that what gardening's all about?

—Julie Chamberlain

WE'RE GLAD THE BUCKS STOPPED



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BERKSHIRE SCHOOL
CELEBRATING A CENTURY

LAND DONATED FOR COVERED BRIDGE PARK

The land near the Covered Bridge donated by Jeanne and Sydney Weinstein of New Marlborough and accepted by Sheffield residents at the May 2007 Town Meeting has been formally transferred to the Town of Sheffield. The transfer took place on Feb. 8.

The half-acre site sits on the west bank of the Housatonic River, south of Covered Bridge Lane. Residents have long used this beautiful spot along the river for civic celebrations, weddings and picnics. Firemen draw water here. There is access across the property to agricultural lands to the south.

The original covered bridge at the site was built in 1837, with major repairs to the bridge and abutments in 1980. The bridge was destroyed by fire in 1994. An exact replica was built in 1996.

Why the bridge was originally located at this particular site is a mystery. It provided access to fields east of the river, but the connecting road ends at Boardman St. and does not lead to other town centers. There is speculation that it was located for the convenience of the schoolmaster, whose farm was located at the corner of Boardman and Covered Bridge Lane. The school was located where the American Legion Post now stands on Route 7.

The Sheffield Land Trust is currently helping the Town

oversee the development of a park at the site, with input from the Housatonic Valley Association and Sheffield businesses. Preliminary plans call for clearing invasive plants that limit

viewing and access to the river, which will expand the amount of available recreational area and enable the development of an enhanced canoe-launch area. Split-rail fencing will be erected to better define the park. A large sitting stone will be placed at the site to commemorate the Housatonic River Summer 2004 project whose key sponsor was the Sheffield Art League. The Town will con-

SHEFFIELD'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE

June 22, 2008, will mark the 275th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Sheffield, the oldest town in Berkshire County. In honor of that occasion, the Sheffield Historical Society will host an event on its grounds from 1 to 4pm on Sat., June 21.

All the Society's buildings will be open for viewing. Costumed Society members will roam the grounds, and music, food and games of the period along with demonstrations and other activities will fill the grounds. Everyone is invited!.

tinue to maintain the site.

Concurrently, the National Park Service has given permission to place a second commemorative sitting stone on the Appalachian Trail land where the trail crosses the Housatonic River at Kellogg Rd. That site will also be freed of invasive and nuisance plants and its canoe launch area will be improved. That site is maintained by the National Park Service.

Sheffield Town officials have expressed the town residents' gratitude for the gift of this land from the Weinsteins. Persons and organizations interested in participating in the creation of Covered Bridge Park can call project coordinator Bill Connell at 229-9977 or Kathy Orlando at the Land Trust, 229-0234.



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RECOMMENDED READING

Voices of Protest: Documents of Courage and Dissent edited by Frank Lowenstein, Sheryl Lechner and Erik Bruun (2007, Black Dog and Leventhal).

Can you name any other book that contains within its covers the 1215 Magna Carta, a 1970s radio address by Ronald Reagan, a photograph of Cindy Sheehan protesting the war in Iraq outside George W. Bush's ranch in Crawford, TX, an excerpt from Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," a 2006 radio address of Rush Limbaugh excoriating the Democratic Party and the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, the 1848 Seneca Falls Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, the 135 BCE War of Spartacus and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?

The three people who have put those intriguing documents together—Frank Lowenstein, Sheryl Lechner and Erik Bruun—are all well known in the southern Berkshires.

Lowenstein and Lechner, who are married, live in Sheffield. Lowenstein is director of Forest Health Programs for The Nature Conservancy's Global Forest Partnership. Lechner is a freelance writer and editor. For many years she covered Sheffield news for the Berkshire Eagle. Bruun has been a reporter, editor and freelance writer for more than 20 years and also lives in South County. Residents of Sheffield know that more than once Lowenstein and Lechner have themselves voiced articulate dissent at meetings of the Board of Selectmen and at Town Meeting.

Protest, as defined by the editors, is dissent from authority that is publicly expressed and has an impact on society. The book contains more than 250 pieces, including essays, letters, newspaper articles, court transcripts, novels, song lyrics, poetry, photographs and works of art.

Together, the documents offer potent testimony to the power of individuals who are courageous enough to demand change. They do not minimize the cost of such courage. Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King were assassinated; Spartacus and Jesus were crucified; Thomas More was beheaded.

Read together, the impact is compelling. I found myself particularly moved by a quotation from Adlai Stevenson, who ran for president twice in the 1950s, both times losing to Dwight Eisenhower. "Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the fear of something; it is the love of something. Patriotism with us is not the hatred of Russia; it is the love of this Republic and of the ideal of liberty of man and mind in which it was born, and to which this Republic is dedicated."

The words still ring true 50 years later. I am not much interested in declaring and fighting a "war on terror" that is founded on fear, but I deeply love the principles of protest and dissent on which my country was founded and am forever in debt to those who have paid the ultimate price.

—John G. Wightman

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson (Broadway Books, 1998).

Bryson has written an engrossing and funny first-person account about his attempt to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. His traveling companion, Stephen Katz, is a woefully out-of-shape slacker with a penchant for Little Debbie snack cakes.

Much of the book is hilarious, as when Katz in a fit of frustration starts throwing away all their provisions as he hikes, even the coffee filters ("They were great for throwing. Fluttered all over."), and the duo is reduced to filtering their morning brew through toilet paper.

Bryson writes like Dave Barry with a darker, more acerbic streak. He doesn't gloss over the cold, the dirt and the soul-sucking monotony of attempting to through-hike the whole AT. For instance, the pair's skirmish with mice in an AT shelter turns in an instant from comic to disturbing. Bryson observes, "Occasionally it troubled me just how far one strays from the normal measures of civility on the trail."

Interspersed with the hiking narrative are sections on the history of the AT, with forays into botany, geology and geography as well. Bryson writes memorably about the coming of spring in the mountains, the profound joys of simple things like a hot shower and clean clothes, and a charming encounter with a moose.

Near the end of the story one of the duo has a major setback, and their adventure doesn't end as you might expect. Still, it's totally satisfying and rewarding. Bryson makes clear that the point of hiking the AT isn't about getting from Point A to Point B, or about conquering anything, but about finding out who you are.

The book is currently featured in the "Pittsfield READS!" campaign. The Bushnell-Sage Library has a collection of other books about hiking in general, and the AT in particular.

For readers interested in checking out the AT in person, it goes right through Sheffield, crossing Sheffield-Egremont Rd. at the Shays' Rebellion monument and Route 7 in the field just south of Campo De' Fiori before it heads east toward Boardman St and Home Rd.—Liz Chaffee

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MORE RECOMMENDED READING

The Mamur Zapt Mysteries by Michael Pearce (Poisoned Pen Press).

English author Michael Pearce writes this charming series of historical crime novels (16 of them published to date and still counting). They bring back to life the Egypt of about a century ago. While his books are very popular in England (where he has received a number of awards including one given by the British Crime Writers Association for the funniest crime novel), they have only recently come to the attention of American readers.

Pearce, a former British civil servant, knows Egypt well having been raised and taught school in what used to be the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. He is fluent in Arabic.

The books are set at a time when Egypt was nominally a province of the Ottoman Empire and ruled, again nominally, by hereditary monarchs known as the Khedives. In actuality, while you were not supposed to mention it, the country was occupied by the British army and indirectly and discretely managed by the United Kingdom (to protect the newly constructed Suez Canal and ensure that western bankers' loans to the country were paid). British control was maintained through a system of "advisors" seated at the right hands of Egyptian ministers and other important officials. Most of the "advice" was of the mandatory variety.

The main protagonist of the novels is Gareth Owen, a mild-mannered Welshman in his 30s and a former captain in the British Indian Army without any background in police matters or counter espionage. At the "suggestion" of

the British consul general he had been appointed—of all things—the Mamur Zapt, the powerful head of the Khedive's secret "political" police.

At the time, Egypt was one of the most cosmopolitan countries in the world. It was home to some 60 different nationalities, at least 110 different ethnic groups and over 200 separate religious sects. They included Arabs and Turks (mainly Muslim), Christians of every description (including adherents of the Coptic, Mingrelian, Nestorian, Ethiopian, Armenian, Greek and Russian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches and protestant missionaries from England and the U.S.), Bedouins, Africans, Abyssinians, Greeks, Italians, Jews, Armenians, Albanians, Montenegrins and Levantines. As portrayed by Pearce, they were passionate in their beliefs, suspicious of strangers, fiercely protective of their rights, always ready to take offense at real or imagined slights and—almost always—thoroughly delightful people.

The Mamur Zapt, with a shoe-string budget and tiny staff, was charged with keeping the lid on this richly varied and turbulent mix of peoples, a far from easy task. His duties included censoring the nationalist press, resolving disputes between different religious groups, keeping an eye on firebrand sheiks and foreign spies, suppressing demonstrations and riots and running his own spy networks, some consisting of gangs of small boys.

Along the way, Pearce describes Muslim courtship, weddings and divorce, Coptic burial practices, Sufism (whirling

dervishes), smuggling, thefts or fabrications of archeological artifacts, gun and drug running, how camel caravans operate and the fiendishly complicated and incompetent Egyptian bureaucracy. He also chronicles some of the early stirrings of Egyptian nationalist and democratic sentiments in reaction to foreign domination and the enormous gap between rich and poor in a country where the "Pashas"—the traditional Ottoman ruling class—owned vast estates worked by thousands of downtrodden and victimized fellahin.

The author populates his novels with a fascinating lineup of colorful and appealing characters. They include Owen's good friend and colleague Mahmoud, a bright but shy prosecuting attorney, and Zeinab, the fiery daughter of a wealthy and powerful Pasha whom Owen ultimately marries, to the consternation of both the British and Egyptian communities.

Each book's plots and subplots are numerous, intricate and intertwined. They range from the momentous, like a plan to destabilize Egypt by setting Muslims and Copts at each others' throats or sabotaging the country's critically important irrigation system, to the petty, such as settling a donkey barbers' strike.

But the story lines are not the real point. While intriguing and full of surprises, they are secondary to the main focus of the books—Egypt and the Egyptians, about whom Pearce writes with great affection, respect and humor.

—Peter Rowntree

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PLANNING BOARD NEWS

During its meetings from Jan. 10 to Feb. 13, the Planning Board dealt with the following business:

It granted the special permit application of Berkshire Fence & Accessories, Inc., of 560 South Main St., for the use of an accessory single-family dwelling unit in the Commercial District. The board will continue its deliberations on the remaining uses applied for by Berkshire Fence—major commercial development, kennel and increased signage, both in size and number. Those will be considered at a special board meeting on Feb. 27 and at the regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 28. The board has 90 days to complete deliberations from Dec. 27, when the hearing on this application was closed.

The board held a special meeting on Jan. 30 to continue the hearing on the special permit application from Sprint-Nextel Corp. to change three antennae installed on the tower located on the Larkin property on Sheffield-Egremont Rd. The proposed change would provide better service to Nextel customers (but not affect service to Sprint users, whose antennae use different technology). The board closed the hearing and hopes to vote on the application at the Feb. 27 meeting.

Also at the Jan. 30 meeting, the board discussed potential advisory comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals on Century Acquisitions' special permit application (see story on page 1). Planning Board Chair Rene Wood recused herself from this part of the meeting. The board sent a letter to the ZBA, but the ZBA closed its hearing without taking further input. The full Planning Board discussed the matter further at its Feb. 13 meeting.

The board endorsed the creation of a duplicate mylar (reproducible transparency) for the Form A (Approval Not Required for Development) it had approved in 2007 for Tamaridge Realty Co., as the original was lost by the applicant. This property, generously donated by the Weinstein family to the town, is the only town-owned frontage on the Housatonic River. (A mylar is required to record the transaction at the South Berkshire Registry of Deeds.)

The board spent less time than it had

hoped in reviewing the Zoning By-Law Review Committee's recommendations on potential warrant articles for the May town meeting. It has tentatively endorsed several proposed warrant articles but has more to review. All non-monetary articles must be submitted by Mar. 31 so the board will address this further on Feb. 27. Once proposed warrant articles are finalized, the board will hold a public hearing, notice of which will be in the Berkshire Record and posted at town hall.

A sign by-law committee is being formed with board Vice-Chair Chris Tomich taking the lead. This subcommittee will work on revising the town's current sign by-laws, which have been a source of irritation and confusion to many.

The Economic Development Task Force, recommended by the Planning Board, is moving forward since the Board of Selectmen endorsed it at their Dec. 17 meeting. Jason Ostrander, Congressman John Olver's economic development specialist, Town Administrator Joe Kellogg, Catherine Miller and Rene Wood have been appointed to date; other appointments are expected in early March. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) will facilitate the effort to identify opportunities and obstacles to economic development in Sheffield. The task force will be working for only 90 days, so watch local papers for opportunities to participate. (See also page 18.)

Three board members attended BRPC's "Fifth Thursday" educational seminar on writing defensible decisions, presented by Sid Smithers, Esq., of Cain, Hibbard, Meyers & Cook. They were joined by members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Administrator Kellogg.

Chair Wood met with Kellogg and Joellyn Warren of the planning commission regarding Sheffield's grant award under the state's economic development initiative. The Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen recommended that the grant be used to create a "How to do Business in Sheffield" document and evaluate the Sheffield Business Park as a possible site for expedited economic development, but action is on hold since Warren is leaving BRPC in mid-March.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Assessor	229-7001
Board of Selectmen	229-2335
Building Inspector	229-7006
Fire Dept.	
non-emergency	229-7033
Library	229-7004
Police Dept.	
non-emergency	229-8522
Town Clerk	229-8752
Tax Collector	229-7007
Transfer Station	229-7019

The board completed its budgeting and annual report activities and began work on updating its Rules and Regulations and forms used in conducting board business. A public hearing will be held on the proposed updating, once these efforts are complete, hopefully in March or April. These items do not require voter approval, but the board is interested in input. Notices will run in the Berkshire Record and be posted at town hall.

The planning board is seeking a new member to join its ranks in May 2008. This is an elected office with a three-year term. To become a candidate, pick up nominating papers from the Town Clerk's office, available now through March 19, get the required number of signatures and return the completed form to the Town Clerk's office by March 24. Your name will then appear on the May 13 town election ballot.

If you have any interest in serving your town in this capacity, or are just interested in what the board does, come to a board meeting and see first hand what's involved. Or ask board members Tony Gulotta, Maggie Z. Martin, David Smith, Sr., Chris Tomich or Rene Wood what they do. This is a very important board in town and it needs good people.

Upcoming meetings. The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board have tentatively scheduled a joint Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee update session for Mar. 17 at 6pm. All are invited.

Planning Board forms, minutes and meeting schedules, as well as all special permit hearing notices, zoning by-laws and more, are posted on the Town's web site (www.sheffieldma.gov), on the Planning Board's page. Regular board meetings are on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7pm. Special meetings are posted as needed. All are invited and welcomed.

—Rene Wood, Chair

FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

12/3—The Selectmen unanimously agreed to send a letter to Time-Warner requesting that C-Span be placed back on the lower tier of programming. The Towns of Lee and Great Barrington have voted to send the letter as well.

The board agreed to allow the Rudolph Steiner School to use the Town Hall Parking Lot as a student pick-up/drop-off area.

The board accepted the bid for winter sand from Joe Wilkinson Excavating for \$8.84 per ton. Valley Communications has submitted a proposal to install a new phone system in Town Hall and the Police Dept. for \$13,700. The price includes new handsets and a voice mail system. The present system, Town Administrator Joe Kellogg noted, cuts out in mid conversation.

A Special Town Meeting was scheduled for Jan. 22. [See story on page 1 for results of the meeting.]

Administrator Kellogg thanked Tammy Blackwell for her hard work on replacing the town Christmas tree lights with LED bulbs, which use less electricity.

New recycling bins are available at Town Hall for any resident who would like one.

Aidan Cassidy submitted his resignation from the Ashley Falls Historic District Commission.

12/17—A regular meeting and a special meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee were held back to back.

The Selectmen agreed to establish a permanent Housing Commission to be modeled after the Agricultural Commission, reporting to the Board of Selectmen. There will be five members and two alternates. Administrator Kellogg will work on a by-law for submission to the annual Town Meeting in

TOWN OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION ON MAY 12

Four town positions are up for election this year. One seat on the Board of Selectmen will be open. Julie Hannum, the incumbent, will be running for re-election. The Town Moderator position is a one-year term and elected every year. Bruce Person is the incumbent. One three-year seat will be open on the Planning Board (Rene Wood is the incumbent; she has stated she will not seek re-election). One Library Trustee seat will be open (Kathy Ness is the incumbent).

Nomination papers are now available from the Town Clerk. The last day to obtain them is Fri., March 21, and they must be returned to the Board of Registrar's for certification of signatures by Mon., March 24.

May. The Implementation Advisory Committee's housing subcommittee has fulfilled its charge and will be disbanded.

The Selectmen, Planning Board and Implementation Advisory Committee will schedule a meeting on the status of the Implementation Advisory Committee Open Space Committee for the end of January.

Rene Wood has talked with Joellyn Warren from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission regarding an Economic Development Task Force. The task force would continue for 90 days, at which time it would report their findings to the Board of Selectmen. Warren has advised Wood that the planning commission would help fund and provide training. The Selectmen unanimously agreed to form the task force and to seek funding from the planning commission.

Elton Ogden, president of the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, explained that the town needs to update its Community Development Strategy before it can apply for Community Development Block Grants. Ogden said the strategy as developed by Rene Wood looks very good. The Board will be asked to

formally adopt the strategy at its next meeting.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the Library furnace is not working properly. After discussion, it was decided to replace the large furnace with two smaller ones. The board agreed to award the bid to Moran Mechanical for two small boilers for the price of \$16,300. The work will begin this week.

George Oleen has requested appointment to the Cable Advisory Committee. John-Arthur Miller has expressed interest in the Broadband Access Committee.

Kellogg thanked Winthrop Barrett for donating his time to string the lights on the town Christmas tree.

12/27—Administrator Kellogg noted that Fire Chief Rick Boardman was unable to perform the annual fire safety inspections for restaurants renewing their alcoholic beverages licenses by Dec. 31 and has designated building inspector Thomas Carmody to do them.

1/7—Cemetery Association member Bruce Philbrick showed photos of vandalism committed at the Center Cemetery and an invoice for repairs and thanked the Sheffield Police Dept. for their assistance in recovering some of the costs through restitution. Miles Arnspiger, one of the vandals, was present and read an apology for taking part in the vandalism.

Richard Swiatek has been recommended for the Ashley



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ANN MORELLI SMITH
SALES ASSOCIATE

Falls Historic District Committee. Rene Wood, Catherine Miller and Jason Ostrander have requested appointment to the Economic Development Task Force. Appointments will be made on Jan. 22.

The Selectmen unanimously approved the appointments of George Oleen to the Cable Advisory Committee and John-Arthur Miller to the Broadband Access Committee.

The Selectmen agreed to enter into the Western Massachusetts Inter-Governmental Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement with the Berkshire County Addendum dealing with various issues raised by county town counsels.

The Sheffield Honor Roll, which was donated by the Sheffield Friendly Union, is now hanging in the meeting room. The Honor Roll is a list of those Sheffield residents who served in World War I.

The Selectmen voted to allow Administrator Kellogg to apply for and sign the Small Cities Block Grant application and all related documents. Two public hearings are required for the grant application. The first one will be held on Jan. 22, and the second has been scheduled for Feb. 4.

The Selectmen entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, litigation strategy and mediation.

1/14— The board reviewed applications for the seasonal part-time truck driver position in the Highway Dept. The board, heeding the recommendations of Ron Bassett, Highway Superintendent, and Administrator Kellogg, appointed John Tinker to the position.

The Selectmen entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, litigation strategy and mediation.

1/22—A public hearing was held on the Town's request for a Community Development Fund grant from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for construction of a new Senior Center. Elton Ogden and Ted Lee from Berkshire Housing Development Services, the firm preparing the grant application, were present. Several residents were also present. Ogden explained that the Town would be seeking the maximum grant of \$800,000 to be matched with local funds of \$450,000 for a total project cost of \$1,250,000. It was noted that the voters would be asked to approve the local share at the Special Town Meeting to be held following this meeting.

The Selectmen appointed Rene Wood, Catherine Miller

and Jason Ostrander to the Economic Development Task Force.

Jaime Pomeroy submitted her resignation from the Conservation Commission.

The board approved an exemption for David Steindler, Finance Committee member, to allow him to receive the \$200 stipend for his service as a school committee member.

The board formally endorsed Article 4 on the Special Meeting Warrant to fund the Senior Center.

The board approved, with conditions, a sign permit for Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc. The sign will be erected on the Village Green in front of Dewey Hall for dances held on Saturday nights twice a month.

SELECTMEN & SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTES

Sheffield's Board of Selectmen meet once a month with Sheffield's members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee: Jack Pollitt, Dek Tillett, David Steindler and Susan Young.

1/3—Discussion took place over an article in the *New Malborough 5 Village News* about the state Dept. of Education takeover of the school district and about the letter sent by the school superintendent to all the staff regarding the takeover. The School Committee is not anticipating many changes other than approval for line item budget transfers and the use of grant funds. The School Committee will send a letter to the Dept. of Education regarding the emergency regulations they issued. The comment period on the regulations ends on Dec. 21. A meeting will be held on Dec. 10 with all five towns in the district.

Discussion ensued on the schedule for setting the school budget for the next fiscal year. Copies of the schedule were distributed to the Selectmen. The tentative date for the FY09 budget hearing is Feb. 28, 2008. The Board of Selectmen is encouraged by the finance subcommittee's approach to meet with each town to discuss the budget.

Other topics discussed included using operating funds to make capital improvements and the unsafe condition of two school buildings.

1/7—The School Committee has been working on the FY09 budget. School Administration would like to hire a Math Coach. Discussion ensued regarding funding for the position and moved on to discussion regarding class sizes, state funding, and the school building in Monterey.

Dawn O'Neil's Family Child Care



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(413) 229-8557



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SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING

Warrant article passed

The recent big news is the passage at the special town meeting in January of the warrant article that will provide matching town money if we succeed in obtaining a state grant to build a new Senior Center. (See the story on page 1 for more.) Meanwhile, the Friends of the Senior Center are seeking nonprofit status so contributions for furnishings and materials for the new building can be tax-deductible. Thanks to all whose hard work has gotten us this far!

Berkshire School connects young and old

As part of Berkshire School's "Connecting Young and Old" program, a dozen Berkshire juniors attended the January Council on Aging meeting. The students learned some of the ways that Sheffield, Berkshire County and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts meet seniors' needs. They also drew on their diverse backgrounds—many are from other parts of the country or overseas—to explore differences in the concept of extended family and how living situations have influenced the care of older family members.

One of the students, Clay Cohen, sent an email to all Berkshire School faculty and staff encouraging them to attend the special Sheffield Town Meeting Jan.

22 in support of the warrant article concerning the Senior Center. Clay is a member of a jazz group that we hope will be performing soon at our Third Thursday Lunch.

These intergenerational moments build on last April's "Gracious Living Day," when Berkshire students joined Sheffield seniors to help the town of Sheffield with spring work projects at the library, Historical Society, Old Parish Church, Christ Church Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran, and the firehouse. All workers, young and old, then gathered for lunch at the Senior Center to share morning experiences, stories, and thoughts on "gracious living." Berkshire School and the Sheffield Senior Center are pleased to announce that another such day is planned for April.

Another intergenerational project being planned by the Senior Center for the fall will include students from Mt. Everett High School. The program, "Papermaking for our Future: The Fruits of our Labor," with funding from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, is aimed to raise awareness and funds for the new Senior Center. Stay tuned for additional details.

—John-Arthur Miller, Director

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION NEWS

The Agricultural Commission has been working on a variety of topics affecting agriculture. Members have participated in a series of training opportunities, including a seminar on conflict resolution, and several Western Massachusetts Agricultural Commission conferences. Like many such commissions around the state, the Sheffield Agricultural Commission is working to identify all the farms in the community and what individual and shared needs may be and with the Town on implementing the Right to Farm bylaw.

In February, the commission provided a letter of support for a grant to increase state-wide training and resources available to agricultural commissions. It also co-sponsored a panel on the Community Preservation Act as a potential resource

to support agriculture along with Construct, Inc., the Sheffield Historical Society and the Sheffield Land Trust. And it hosted an informational session by Berkshire Biodiesel on its startup efforts in the county, including using marginal lands to grow biofuel.

Many members of the commission have agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Agricultural Education program being developed at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District by Cassie Uricchio and will be attending the first meeting of that group on March 3.

Find out more about your town!
Visit the Town of Sheffield's web site
at www.sheffieldma.gov

ECONOMIC TASK FORCE HAS 90 DAYS

The Economic Development Task Force recently appointed by the Board of Selectmen held its first meeting on Feb. 20 to focus on what Sheffield can do to become more "business friendly" in accord with the Town's Master Plan. In addition to considering traditional businesses, the group will identify strategies to encourage ecotourism, not-for-profit organizations, home-based businesses and the "creative economy"—people who use their creative skills to earn a living.

The group has only a 90-day mandate. It will be working with a consultant provided by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to develop an Economic Development Strategy that will update the economic section of the Town's Master Plan, completed three years ago.

One goal of the task force is developing strategies to retain existing businesses. Another is how to attract appropriate new businesses. In addition, the task force plans to identify business opportunities not dealt with in the town's zoning by-laws and review the zoning districts and the uses allowed in each. The group expects to end up with recommended changes to the zoning by-laws.

At its first meeting, the group agreed to develop and conduct a business survey, followed up by interviews of a cross-section of business, to develop an updated picture of Sheffield's economic climate. A forum to share the task force's findings and recommendations and receive community feedback will be scheduled in the spring. The group plans to present the Economic Development Strategy and implementation recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by the end of April.

Members of the Task Force include Rene Wood, Catherine Miller, Jason Ostrander (Economic Development Specialist for Congressman John Olver's office and a Sheffield resident), Julie Hanum, and Town Administrator Joe Kellogg. Additional members are welcome.

If anyone has questions or suggestions, or would like to join the task force, speak to any of its members or contact the Town Administrator at 229-7000.

SHEFFIELD CULTURAL COUNCIL AWARDS GRANTS

The Sheffield Cultural Council awarded grants totaling \$4,000, for cultural programs in Sheffield. The winners are listed below. In all, 39 grants were applied for.

The grants were awarded from a pool of funds distributed to Sheffield by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that supports public programs and educational activities in the arts, sciences and humanities. The Sheffield Cultural Council is one of 329 local councils that serve every city and town in the state. Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers.

"It's the local volunteers who really make this system work," says Stephen Hyer, the council chair. In addition to Hyer, the members of the Sheffield Cultural Council are Ann Moulton, Brenda Ullrich, Amber Spring, Anne Dunn and Trudy Weaver Miller.

The Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall. Information and forms are available at online at the Massachusetts Cultural Council's website at www.massculturalcouncil.org and are due Oct. 15.

Here are the winners:

🐾 John Root: a lecture demonstration of "Edible Plants of the Northeast" at the Sheffield Library.

🐾 Richard Clark: a dramatization of the life of Clarence

Darrow at the Sheffield Senior Center.

🐾 Laura Ponkos: transportation funding for a field trip of SBRSD 5th graders to a Boston Symphony Orchestra concert

🐾 Bruce Mandel, guitarist & singer: a public concert at the Sheffield in Celebration Day.

🐾 Shakespeare & Company: participation of students from Mt. Everett High School in the "Fall Festival of Shakespeare."

🐾 Flying Cloud Institute: After School Arts & Sciences programs at SBRSD grades K-12.

🐾 Berkshire Theatre Festival: a 14-week residency of Berkshire Theatre Festival Plays at Undermountain Elementary.

🐾 Cantilena Chamber Choir: a community Christmas concert at Old Parish Church.

🐾 Contempaissance, a flute and guitar duo: community concert in Sheffield.

🐾 Anne-Elizabeth Barnes: "Mumbet in the Schools," featuring the life of local citizen Elizabeth Mumbet Freeman.

🐾 Barrington Stage Company: a Playwright Mentoring Project for the schools and community.

🐾 Kari Giordano: a performance by "Cave Dogs" for the schools and community.

🐾 Sheffield Council on Aging: a community event with a performance by the French Canadian folk group Reveillons.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Sheffield Conservation Commission is looking for members. Those with experience are welcome, as are those who are willing to learn. If you are interested, contact Jeff Waingrow at 229-0420 or jlwl89@msn.com.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Annual Street List. If you still have not returned your census form, please do so as soon as possible. Registered voters who have not returned their form will be placed on the inactive list, which will have an impact on voting.

Elections. Town Hall is open every weekday to accommodate voter registration. Here are deadlines for registering for the elections in 2008:

Election	To vote on...	Register by...
Annual Town Meeting	Mon., May 5	Tues., April 15
Annual Town Election	Mon., May 12	Tues., April 15
State Primary	Tues., Sept. 16	Wed., Aug. 27*
Presidential Election	Tues., Nov. 4	Wed., Oct. 15*

**Note that the registration dates for the state primary and presidential election are subject to change if the state implements same-day registration.*

If you have any questions pertaining to elections or voter status, contact the clerk's office during regular business hours at 229-8752.

Dog licenses. Licenses need to be renewed annually. If your dog is six months of age or older, or you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, licensing is required. After May 1, a delinquent fee of \$25 per dog will be implemented in addition to your license fee. (This does not apply to new licenses).

You can obtain a license in person or by mail. If your dog is spayed or neutered the cost is \$4. If your dog is intact the fee is \$10. By mail: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with a check payable to the Town of Sheffield and proof of rabies to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 175, Sheffield, MA 01257.

The Boy Scouts will hold their annual rabies vaccination clinic on Sat., Mar. 22, from 1-3pm in the Town Hall Parking Lot. The cost per vaccination is \$10.

Sporting/hunting and fishing licenses are available. Licenses for 2008 can be obtained year round. For further information, contact the Town Clerk's office, or visit our website at www.sheffield.ma.gov. Go to the Town Clerk's department and follow the link to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

BIG RESPONSE TO BROADBAND SURVEY

Berkshire Connect was amazed and overjoyed when Town Administrator Joe Kellogg trekked to Pittsfield to hand-deliver more than 750 paper survey responses from Sheffield residents to the group's Regional Broadband Survey. Many more likely responded to the online version of the survey. Sheffield's Broadband Access Committee estimates that Sheffield's response rate must be at least 50 percent, which is phenomenal.

The Board of Selectmen and the Broadband Access Committee send a big thank you to all who responded to the survey, which was included with the Annual Census mailing. If you haven't yet responded, you still can, by completing a form available at town hall or going online at www.bconnect.org.

The surveys will provide valuable information, including data for calculating the cost of full broadband delivery across the state. Western Massachusetts legislators, town broadband committees and grass-roots organizations continue to press for legislation that will bring high-speed Internet access to the whole state.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Watch out for sweepstakes scams

The Sheffield Police Department has recently investigated several complaints from local residents about sweepstakes fraud.

Fraud is one of the few crimes in which the victims can decline to participate, if they recognize the warning signs. The scams being seen in Sheffield are largely a notice by phone of winning some sort of sweepstakes. The most recent was reported last week. The caller claimed they were from *Reader's Digest* and that the family had won \$550,000. The family only needed to write a check for \$475 for processing and delivery of the winning package. I contacted *Reader's Digest*, which emphatically stated that it never requires a payment for any prize or sweepstakes won.

Another scam involves getting a check in the mail from a well-known national bank in California. I received such a check myself last month. I brought it to the bank, which found that although it looked legitimate, the routing number was fake.

The check had been mailed from Virginia, with an accompanying letter that looked like it was typed by a 10 year old. These are all signs! If mail contains poor grammar, punctuation and loads of misspellings, it is a sign of fraud. I called the sender and asked several questions. The caller hung up on me.

Here are other things to watch out for:

Never pay to play. It's illegal for a company to require you to buy something or pay a fee in order to win or claim a prize.

Buying something doesn't improve your chances of winning. It's illegal for a company to even suggest that.

Don't believe that you have to give the company money for

taxes on your prize. Taxes are deducted from winnings or the winner pays them directly.

No legitimate sweepstakes company will ask for credit card and bank account numbers.

Some con artists use company names identical or very similar to legitimate sweepstakes operators. Say you'll get back to them and contact the real company.

Don't accept an "advance" on your "winnings." Some con artists use this ploy to build trust and get you to send money before your bank realizes the check has bounced.

Don't be fooled by official-looking mail. One clue is if the letter was sent at bulk mail rates. That means that lots of other people are receiving the same thing.

Be especially cautious about foreign sweepstakes. Many fraudulent sweepstakes companies that target U.S. consumers are located in Canada or other countries, which makes it much more difficult for law enforcement agencies to pursue them.

Get the details in writing. Legitimate sweepstakes companies will give you written information about how a contest works, including the odds of winning, the value of the prizes and the fact that no purchase is necessary.

Remember that con artists lie. It's hard to imagine that there are people who are so cruel that they will tell you you've won something when you haven't, but it's true.

If you have any questions, please call the Sheffield Police Dept. We'd love to talk to the people running these scams.

—Officer Sheryl Johnson

Sheffield Historical Society



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FOR ITS FUTURE TOMORROW

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Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and
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and by appointment
Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
and Sunday, 11a.m. to 3p.m.
(Closed March)

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NEW SOLAR STORE IN SHEFFIELD

A welcome new addition to Sheffield's business community is the Grenergy Solar Store, which is located at 520 Sheffield Plain Rd. (Route 7), in the new building that had originally been erected to house the bookstore that never ended up opening. The store is owned by Brian Torrico, who opened it on Dec. 15.

"It's a family affair," says Brian, 22. His father, Tom, has a longstanding electrical business, also located on Route 7 in Sheffield. "I've worked for my father on and off during summers growing up, and we've always been interested in solar for our own house. That's where discussions began. But it was hard not having any resources, and nobody to turn to but the Internet for answers. There was no human interaction, which is key, especially with renewable energy. A lot of education has to go on. You can educate yourself, but it's hard."

When Brian graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy in May 2007, he had a degree from its school for business management, with a concentration in entrepreneurship. "I happened to stumble on a Solar Store in Auburn, near Worcester," he says. "It was kind of an 'aha' moment." USA Solar Store is a chain with 15 stores, mostly in the northeast. "The guy who started everything is really a visionary," says Brian. "He's from Vermont. My whole family went up to Vermont and visited the first Solar Store that opened."

Next came learning about all the new technologies. "I took a two-week training course that USA Solar Store offers, taught by its founder. He's been working in the renewable energy sector for years." That was where Brian's formal education in the subject began, but it certainly didn't end there. "I'm continually learning; there's new information you learn every single day. Just like in any industry, you also get lots of information through the distributors and manufacturers."

The USA Solar Store group is a buying co-op, Brian explains. This enables its members to use the buying power of their numbers, so that they can in turn offer the best possible prices to their customers. But because he is an independent owner, he says, "I don't have to toe a company line. I can bring in products other than what the co-op offers. We have lots of people using new products, bringing in what works and alerting other consumers to what doesn't work as well."

The Grenergy Solar Store is off to a good start in the short time it's been open. "We have had a lot of interest, quite a bit of foot traffic," Brian says. "In general, people are beginning to understand that they have to do something, whether the environment drives them, or the cost of home heating oil. People are getting pinched more and more. The timing is right."

"My parents have been a huge help," he adds. "They've been in business for over 20 years, and they have a lot of experience to draw on."

The store, which is manned only by Brian, carries a little bit of everything. "There are conservation and efficiency items, like compact fluorescent bulbs, which last 10 years and use a quarter of the electricity of regular bulbs. We have appliances, like washing machines and refrigerators that use half the energy of Energy Star appliances. The refrigerator is from Denmark—it's taller and skinnier, not as deep as U.S. models. The price is not much



The Grenergy Solar Store on Route 7.

different from other refrigerators, around \$1300. But it's not all big stuff. We have things as simple as wooden drying racks."

Another part of the store is devoted to "biomass" and heating. "We have a solar panel that will heat up to 700 square feet, that mounts on the side of a south facing wall and can be installed by the do-it-yourselfer. It's made in Massachusetts—we try to stay local whenever we can." The store also sells wood and pellet stoves and stoves that burn biodiesel. It sells kits for making biodiesel from cooking oil from restaurants. "We sell biodiesel rated for cars," Brian notes, "and other soy-based products, like one meant to replace WD-40, called AG-40. We even have a soy-based barn chain oil for chainsaws. It works really well."

Brian also carries solar hot water heating panels, tanks and evacuated tubes, which are a kind of solar hot water collector that uses vacuum tubes. He carries solar electric panels as well. "We offer every major make and model," he says. Another item he carries is gas or electric-fired tankless hot water heaters, the kind travelers have seen in Europe for decades. "Europe is far ahead of us," he says.

You will also find books and magazines in the store, covering "everything from insulating and tightening houses to solar technologies to building more efficiently." Brian also sells toys and "fun stuff to get the point across."

He says, "We're primarily in the business of education. People need to learn what makes sense for their house."

Brian and his dad can work with builders and renovators, as well. "If you're starting from scratch it makes a lot of sense to do it right from Day 1, but we're not all so lucky," Brian says.

Brian sees himself doing this work for a long time to come. "I feel that I'm going to be able to make a difference and make a living for myself. I like to say that I'm bringing renewable energy to Main Street America."

The Grenergy Solar Store hours are 12-5:30pm, Wednesday to Friday; 11am-4:30pm on Saturday; and by appointment. For more information, check the USA Solar Store group's website at usasolarstore.com (click on the Store Directory link to find the Grenergy page) or call 229-0049. —Ellen Weiss

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Colonial garden planting & planning. Ruth Green, owner of Green Arts Garden Design and head gardener at the Bidwell House Museum, will give a slide presentation and talk about heritage garden planting schemes on Fri., Mar. 14, 7:30 pm at Dewey Memorial Hall. Ruth Green is a Horticulturalist and organic land care professional. She holds degrees in art, history and landscape architecture.

Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum. A photographic exhibit, "Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum," will include selections from two of Joanna Jennings's past series drawn from her experiences at the museum as an intern in 2005 and as a staff member in 2007. The exhibition will be on display

at Old Stone Store from Sat., Apr. 5, through May 4. The Historical Society will host an opening reception on Sat., Apr. 5, from 6 to 8pm. For those interested in knowing more about the images, Jennings will host an informal gallery talk on Fri., Apr. 18, at 7:30pm.

Roads less traveled. Bernard A. Drew, Berkshire Eagle columnist and Great Barrington Historical Society trustee, will verbally explore a number of old roads in Sheffield and other parts of southern Berkshire County. Questions he'll answer include where are Sheffield's roads to Mount Washington and where can you stand on a remnant of a Mohican Trail. Drew's latest local history publications are *Dam Beavers: Civilian Conservation Corps 196th Company, 1933-37*, *Construction of York Lake at Sandisfield State Forest (2007)* and *Berkshire Forests Shade the Past (2007)*. The program will take place at Dewey Memorial Hall on Fri., Apr. 11, at 7:30pm.

"Footstone," Jennings's prize winner in the Monterey Cultural Council's 2007 Photography Contest.



COBBLE BOOK GROUP

A book group is meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Visitors' Center at Bartholomew's Cobble. The reading list is inspired by the life and triumph of Elizabeth Freeman (Mumbet) and is free to all. Sponsored by the Ashley House Property Committee of The Trustees of Reservations. For the book list and to register, please contact Barbara Dowling at 413-298-8146 or bdowling@ttor.org.



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575 Sheffield Plain, (Route 7)
Sheffield, MA 01257
Sandra Preston, Broker, GRI, CRS

SCOUT NEWS

Rabies clinic. Sheffield Boy Scouts will be hosting the annual rabies clinic in the Town Hall parking lot, Mar. 29, 1-3 pm. Cats must be in cages and dogs on leashes. Bring the last record you have of a rabies vaccination for the animal. Please leave your animal in your vehicle until it is time for the vaccination, then bring out any dogs. We'll try to give cats the vaccination in the vehicle if at all possible. The cost per vaccination is \$10. Cash or checks on local banks are accepted. At the same time, the Town Clerk will be selling dog licenses in her office. Note that no animals are allowed in the building.

Pancake breakfast. Cub Scout Pack 28 will hold its annual pancake breakfast, Sun., Mar. 16, 7:30-10:30am at the American Legion Hall. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the pack. Tickets are \$6 (children 4-12 \$3). You're welcome to drop in the day of the breakfast, and take-out orders will be available. Money raised from this event is used for Scout field trips, including overnights to the Boston Museum of Science, the USS Slater or the USS Massachusetts; summer camp at Chesterfield Scout Reservation; Pinewood Derby Trophies; and regular advancement awards.

Crossing over ceremony. On Feb. 2, Den 7 of Pack 28 from Sheffield had a crossing over ceremony to welcome the Webelo Scouts into the troop. Of the five scouts that crossed over, three earned the Arrow of Life, the hardest Cub Scout badge to earn and the only badge that is transferred from the Cub Scout uniform to the Boy Scout uniform.

Spaghetti dinner. If you would like to find out more about the Scouts, watch for details on the spaghetti dinner in April at the American Legion Hall in Sheffield.

—George Oleen and Ryan Capasse

AUDUBON EVENTS

Geology of Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary & the Southern Taconics. Join geologist Edward Kirby on this stroll around the Audubon Society's newest sanctuary to learn about the fascinating geological history of the Taconic Mountains, the Housatonic marble valley, the area's glacial history and the lime industry of the early 20th century. We'll find out about the quarry pits and the standing lime kiln on the sanctuary, as well as the glacial erratic of Boulder Spur. Magnificent views of Mount Everett and the rest of the Taconic Mountains are possible from the property's Taconic Vista Trail. The event will take place on Sat., April 12, 10:30am-noon. The fee is \$6 for members, \$8 for nonmembers, and preregistration is required. Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary is on Silver St. For more information, call 413-637-0320.

Day camp at Pleasant Valley. There are several spots remaining for all age groups at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary's Natural History Day Camp this summer. If your children are between the ages of 6-13 years old, we may have room for them. We also have spots open for volunteer counselors-in-training as well as camp counselor positions. Call for information (413-637-0320) or to request a brochure, or download a registration form at www.massaudubon.org.



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT PANEL: *The Sheffield Land Trust's 10th annual winter lecture took place at Dewey Hall on Feb. 23, co-sponsored by the Historical Society, the Agricultural Commission and Construct, Inc. Speakers were people from organizations and towns with experience in how the Community Preservation Act can help towns fund historical preservation, workforce housing, and open space and recreation projects. After the discussion, the usual scrumptious afternoon tea was served. Above, panelists speak with local realtor Marguerite DeSantis.*

LAND TRUST RECEIVES GRANT FOR TRAIL IMPROVEMENT AND INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition has awarded the Sheffield Land Trust a \$10,000 grant to continue work on its Recreation and Education Trails initiative. That project is focused on the former Cosgriff property, which sits between Salisbury Rd. and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District campus off Berkshire School Rd.

The grant is in two parts: \$5,000 to create a volunteer program to identify invasive species and remove them from the property, and \$5,000 for upgrade a trail, a project the Land Trust is undertaking jointly with the school district.

The identification training and removal of invasive species is being done in conjunction with the New England Wildflower Society. The inventory by that group will be done in May, with training and removal in September and October. Anyone interested in the project should contact the Land Trust at 229-0234 or shefland@bcn.net.

The trail work will be pursued with guidance from the Berkshire Natural Resources Counsel. A request for proposals will be going out shortly to local contractors for reconstructing the bridge over the Schenob Brook and other work.

SHEFFIELD TREE PROJECT TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY APRIL 21

Under the arching branches of Sheffield's Great Elm, Indians and early settlers met and talked and traded. The double rows of elms planted in the 1870s along Main St. stood like soldiers and showed to all the pride and commitment of our people to our place. A tree-lined small town is a nice town, part of the American Ideal.

Throughout Ashley Falls and Sheffield, we lose more of the big old trees each year. The goals of the Sheffield Tree Project are to replant as old trees come down, to reestablish some of the traditional tree lines along the roads in Sheffield, to improve our public places and to educate.

Our trees are like our children. The Tree Project has been replanting roadside trees for 11 years, and our children are getting big. As we drive up and down Route 7 and on town roads, we check on

our children, we notice their growth and presence. Most people probably don't notice the more than 150 trees we've planted since 1996, but I guarantee that if all these trees were gone, if we had not planted them, they'd be missed.

The Tree Project welcomes suggested locations near your home or business for planting new trees. They can be replacements or a new tree, as long as it is a roadside tree in public view, and you are willing to water it.

We have planted our greatest variety of beautiful trees at Mount Everett High School, the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Town Park. At Mount Everett, the Tree Project and the students and faculty have begun an arboretum and an educational program about trees.

The Tree Project is basically about two things—trees and money. We have

trees to plant and care for, and we always need money to do that. We rely on gifts and donations, especially now that a key grant program that we used for several years is no longer available. Contributions to the Tree Project are fully tax deductible through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Arbor Day is the biggest day of the year for the Tree Project, the beginning of a new planting season. Last year the event was on Ashley Falls Village Green, where we planted a big elm, one of the disease-resistant varieties. There was tree music and tree food and a presentation. This year, Arbor Day is Sat., April 21, and another celebration is planned. Check our web site at Sheffeldtreeproject.org for details. You can also contact the Sheffield Tree Project at P.O. Box 72 Sheffield, MA 01257. —Richard Cherneff

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE RAMBLE: A place for families

"The Cobble" gives our family the feeling of having a 330-acre back yard. On Dec. 22, the shortest day of the year, our family of four set out on snowshoes, ski poles in hand, to enjoy the trails, the snowy woods, the river and the views on the hill in the brilliant waning winter light of late afternoon. Our boys, ages 6 and 9, are happy to return repeatedly to the trails they know so well, hoping to spot wildlife and notice the changes in the landscape that come with each season. Hiking on the same trails over and over and learning every nuance offers us a rich sense of comfort and rightness.

As residents of Ashley Falls, we tend to visit the Cobble a few times a week. It is at the heart of our family life and recreation. The place is a wonderful refuge from the concerns of daily life and a fantastic spot to get exercise while attuning one's mind to the rhythms of nature. In winter we sled down Hurlburt's Hill and hike with our "Yack Tracks" or snowshoes. We recently enjoyed a hike up that hill under a full moon. It was so bright and beautiful that no flashlights were needed.

As the light begins to return and we move into early spring, I love walking there at the end of the day. It's an easy transition from the busyness of work to enjoying an evening with family. In the spring, it's a treat to be close to the birds and the plants as they begin to resurface and populate the landscape. As the sun creeps up, we can hear the calls of a few scattered birds, then within minutes the entire community of birds will break into a full chorus. To stand in the middle of this is thrilling!

The Cobble is renowned for its native plants and wildflowers. As early May approaches, expect to see patches of white and red trilliums, Dutchman's breeches, baneberry, yellow dogtooth violets, toothworts, purple hepaticas, blue cohosh and white flowering bloodroots. If you look carefully in the patches of heart-leaved American ginger, you'll spot the odd purplish-brown flowers lying on the ground waiting to get pollinated by beetles and flies. By mid May, you see masses of red and yellow columbines

sitting astride the thin crest of the lime "cobble," violets and more.

As the weather warms up, we hike up the hill for daily exercise. Once the river quiets down in mid summer, we kayak on the sleepy Housatonic, putting the boat in on Cobble property.

In the autumn the view, the foliage and the angled light often give us reason to leave home and bask in beauty. The Cobble grounds us to the present moment as few other experiences can. Recently someone asked me why I come to the Cobble so often. My answer was automatic: "for the sanctuary of nature." I am glad that our two young sons also

seem to understand that nature is our sanctuary, one that we have a responsibility to care for wisely.

The Cobble naturalist, Rene Wendell, is expert on the Cobble's flora and fauna, with many ideas for interesting children of all ages in the magic of the natural world. The Cobble now offers after-school programs for children in April among its many events.

If you want to add meaning, peace of mind and adventure to your life, remember that Bartholomew's Cobble is just down the road waiting to give its gifts to you and your family.

—Margo and Lawrence Davis-Hollander

COBBLE INVASIVES ON THE RUN

The season for managing invasive species has come to an end. Thanks to everyone who gave a hand—we got a lot done!

For the past six years we've been tackling these horrible plants at Bartholomew's Cobble. For the second year, we received a grant from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife allowing us to hire a full-time intern. Rob Markwith, an environmental science graduate from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, has worked more than 560 hours doing various projects, the biggest being the clearing of Bailey Trail and the riparian zone along the Housatonic River. This area was choked with Japanese barberry, multiflora rose and oriental bittersweet. I gave a hand when I could and, together with other employees of The Trustees of Reservations, which owns and manages the Cobble, we added another 450 hours.

My favorite and most successful project was the removal of purple loosestrife from the Stoney Brook wetland behind the Ashley House. This fantastic area is filled with

cattails. The American bittern has previously nested there, and wood turtles live there. Volunteers racked up more than 330 hours battling invasives there. They took away from the experience not only knowledge of detrimental weeds, but a love for the property and respect for The Trustees and their mission.

In ecological value, Bartholomew's Cobble ranks amongst the top sites in Massachusetts. Thanks to all for helping to save this National Natural Landmark from its greatest threat, invasives that threaten native and rare species, biodiversity and a functioning healthy ecosystem. I feel privileged to be part of the team that's getting it done.

—Rene Wendell, Naturalist



Salisbury School students help mow down Cobble phragmites.

KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

Raffle winners. The grand prize winner for the 2008 GMC Sierra truck is Ron Baker of Canaan, CT, the former owner of the Canaan Market. Second prize of \$1,500 went to Beth Bartholomew of Sheffield and third prize of \$500 to Jody Fijal of Adams. Congratulations to all! On behalf of everyone in the Sheffield Kiwanis Club, thanks to everyone who participated and supported this great raffle to benefit the Sheffield Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

Pancake breakfast. It took place on Jan. 13, at Mt. Everett High School and was attended by approximately 80 people. We raised nearly \$400 after expenses. The raffle added another \$64. Some 25 Kiwanians worked or attended the event. It was great to work with the students from SADD. The Monument Mountain Key Club held their annual Pancake Breakfast on February 10. After expenses, they raised \$540, with the raffles raising another \$96.

Breaking Bread soup kitchen. The community food served at the American Legion in Sheffield is rolling along very well. (See page 10 for more on this

program.) The next two dates that the Sheffield Kiwanis will be running it are April 17 and June 19.

Guest speakers. We welcomed two guest speakers over the past couple of months. On Jan. 15, John Whalen from the department of Social Services spoke about the foster parenting program in Berkshire County and how foster parents are in great need. The guest speaker on Feb. 5 was Cassie Urrichio from the Mt. Everett High School Science Department. She has planted the seeds for a new program in farming and the FFA program at the school. The new program will include a recycling and compost center, revamping the greenhouse and raising Atlantic salmon. Anyone interested in participating is welcome (see page 9 for details on the agricultural advisory meeting).

Casino night. It will take place on Sat., March 8, at Chrissy Farms, the new event center at Barrington Brewery and is always a fun evening. This year, it benefits the Great Barrington Fire Department.

Dinner dance. The really big event, the Kiwanis Spring Fling Step

'N Sip for Scholarships, is booked for the following Saturday night, March 15, at the Berkshire South Regional Community center on Chrissy Road in Great Barrington. Doug Ferony and his 17-piece band will be entertaining again. The Kiwanians will provide hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased at Silk's Variety in Sheffield and Sears and Pittsfield Cooperative Bank in Great Barrington.

Save the date! Wyantenuck Country Club has asked Kiwanis to once again assist them with their Vegas night on Sat., June 28. Things are starting to rev up now!

Expenses. The Board of Directors voted to give Joann Schmulsky \$250 toward her expenses for her upcoming trip to Africa, where she and her colleagues bring in a mobile dental and medical clinic. They voted \$100 to the Railroad Street Youth Project for their mentoring service.

—Gretta Willig

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at 7pm at Limey's Restaurant on Route 7.

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE EVENTS

Hot Chocolate Saturdays

Sat. Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10am-4pm.

Enjoy sledding or snowshoeing at Hurlburt's Hill, then hot drinks in our Visitor Center. Members and Sheffield residents free.

Explore Nature After School

Thurs., Apr. 3, 10, 17, 3-4:30PM for grades K-6.

Pre-register for the three-week series. Members: \$15.

Nonmembers: \$24.

Wildflower-of-the-Week

Wed. through Sun., mid-Apr. to mid-May 9:30am-4:30pm.

Enjoy spring with new weekly wildflower sign boards. Free with admission.

Work in the Wildwood

Thursdays Apr. thru Oct., 9-11:30am. Pull, lop and chop invasive weeds to protect the unique ecology of the Cobble. Free. Call for information.

Life in a Vernal Pool

Sat., Apr. 19, 10am-noon.

Discover the amazing world of wood frogs and salamanders during early spring. Please pre-register. Members: Adult/Child \$4; Family \$10. Nonmembers: Adult/Child \$6; Family \$15.

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to

Dusk Walk

Sat., Apr. 19, 7-8:30pm.

Listen for spring frogs, the dance of the woodcock, and watch the rising Egg Moon. Please pre-register. Members/Nonmembers: \$5; Family \$10.

Teen Green Team

Thurs., April 24, 9am-noon.

Earn service credit hours during school break while ridding the Cobble of unwanted invasive plants. Call for information. Free to all.

Earth Kids

Fri., Apr. 25, 2-4pm.

Explore vernal pools, wildflowers, spring bird songs. Adults free; children \$5 includes take-home learning materials. Please pre-register.

Volunteer Work Day

Sat., Apr. 26, 9am-1pm (rain or shine).

Spruce up the Cobble for the coming season. Call for information. Free to all. To register, please call or email bcobble@ttor.org

May preview: Sun., May 4, Nature Writing Workshop; Sat., May 10, Bird Walk—Spring Migration; Sun., May 11, Mother's Day Wildflower Walk and Tea; Thurs., May 15, Garlic Mustard Jamboree; Sat., May 24, Wild Edibles Extravaganza; Memorial Day, May 26, Housatonic Paddle—Guided Canoe Trip.

sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm (closed Sundays and Mondays, Dec. to March). For more information, call 229-8600 or check the website at www.ttor.org.

FIRE LOG

—Rick Boardman, Chief

January

- 10 Pay loader fire. Alarm time 7:04am. In service 8:16am.
- 11 Structure fire at 343 Kelsey Rd. Alarm time 1:00am. In service 3:38am.
- 14 Smoke in building at the Option Institute. Alarm time 7:56pm. In service 8:26pm.
- 24 Heavy smoke in area. Alarm time 10:56am. In service 11:156am.
- 27 Alarm at Mt. Everett High School. Alarm time 12:30pm. In service 13:02pm.

February

- 1 Alarm at Wilkinson Excavating. Alarm time 20:54pm. In service 21:16pm.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

December

- 14 Dennis W. and Sandra R. Hankey to Michael W. Martin, property at 94 Root Ln., \$305,000.
- 14 Michael J. Shiels and Edward J. Ustico to Sacha Waldman, property at 304 Hickey Hill Rd., \$710,000.
- 14 Marla Shelton to Brian J. and Maryann Hyatt, property at 235 Berkshire School Rd., \$185,000.
- 14 Eric J. Vanderbush (estate of) to Pamela Berkeley, property at County Rd., \$42,500.
- 20 Charles L. Teti and Aiden J. G. Cassidy to Sandra S. Wijnberg, property at 1293 Rannapo Rd., \$1,089,000.

- 24 Sean W. Harkness to Hugh G. Hardy, property at Bull Hill Rd., \$110,000.


January

- 18 Laura J. Zarotney to Stephen T. Meczywor, property at Barnum St., \$80,000.
- 22 Michael C. and Anne Moriarty to Kent S. Clow, property at 114 Salisbury Rd., \$385,000.
- 30 Thomas W. Candee to David D. and Lori H. Godwin, property at 54 Bull Hill Rd., \$355,000.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN SHEFFIELD, 2008 (Jan. 1 to Feb. 15)

Date	Owner	Location	Description	Fee	Est. value
1/17	Ronald S. Smith	48 South Main St.	Add windows to existing porch	\$50	\$5,000
1/22	Edward Knapp	456 Giberson Rd.	Reroof	25	4,500
1/22	Janet Cooper	95 Rote Hill Rd.	Add bathroom at basement level	50	8,000
1/22	Century Acquisitions	24 Clayton Rd., Canaan, CT	Foundation for platform scale	320	60,000
1/28	Thaddeus Kubis	90 Birch Mountain Lane	Finish basement level	180	5,000
2/05	Lisa Lowell	535 Hewins St.	Remodel existing bathroom	50	9,000
2/05	Lisa Lowell	535 Hewins St.	24 x 30-ft. addition	288	150,000
2/05	Thaddeus Kubis	90 Birch Mountain Lane	Remove and replace patio door	50	3,300

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March

- 1 Concert at Dewey Hall, 7:30pm (p. 5)
- 3 Agricultural advisory committee at Mt. Everett, 6pm (p. 9)
- 14 "South Pacific" at Mt. Everett, 7pm (p. 9)
- 14 Historical garden talk at Dewey Hall, 7:30 (p. 22)
- 15 "South Pacific," 7pm (p. 9)
- 15 Garden workshop at Ward's (p. 6)
- 16 "South Pacific," 2pm (p. 9)
- 23 EASTER
- 29 Supper & talent show, Old Parish, 5:30pm (p. 10)

April

- 4 Reveillons & Mountain Laurel concert at Dewey Hall, 7:30pm (p. 8)
- 5 Dance and music workshop, Dewey Hall, 2pm (p. 8)
- 5 Concert & dance at Undermountain School cafeteria, 7:30pm (p. 8)
- 11 Historic roads talk at Dewey Hall, 7:30pm (p. 22)
- 12 Geology walk at Audubon Sanctuary, 10:30am (p. 23)
- 15 **Sheffield Times deadline for events and ads**
- 18 Gallery talk, Old Stone Store, 7:30pm (p. 22)
- 20 PASSOVER BEGINS
- 21 Arbor Day planting (p. 23)

SAVE THE DATE!

Town Meeting is May 5 and Town elections May 12. See page 16.

June 22 is Sheffield's 275th anniversary. See page 12.

See also the listings for Bartholomew's Cobble and Sheffield Kiwanis news and events on p. 25

THE SHEFFIELD TIMES DEPENDS ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT

If you send a donation, we'll mail a year's worth of issues to you. Donations are tax-deductible. Use the coupon below.

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. "1st", "3rd" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
Building Inspector, Town Hall, Tues. 7am-1pm
Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Senior Center Knitting Group, 1pm

Thursdays:

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th
Building Inspector, Town Hall, Thurs. 3pm-7 pm
* Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
* Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd
Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Saturdays:

Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Sundays:

Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES, YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

I want to support the Sheffield Times! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of _____, made payable to the Sheffield Association, PO Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

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☐ I'd like to get more involved with the Sheffield Times

☐ I am particularly interested in or have experience with _____

The Sheffield Times is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. Everyone who makes a donation will receive a copy by mail unless you tell us otherwise. Please note on this form if you do not want it sent, and we won't add to your recycling pile! Donations are tax-deductible through a partnership with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

THANKYOU TO OUR RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

If we missed anyone, we'll catch you in the next issue!

Emily & John Alexander
Betty & Fred Bangs
Julie Chamberlain Gardening Services
Anne Barstow & Tom Driver
Laura & Greg Batch
Pamela Bloodworth
Campo De' Fiori
Dana Cummings
T.V. Czarnowski
Branch D. Elam
Bart & Janet Elsbach
Inez Flinn
Virginia Flynn & J. W. Crow
Elaine Freidman
David & Mari Gasperini
Tiziana & Hugh Hardy
Dawn S. Massini
Trudy & John-Arthur Miller

Moon in the Pond Farm
Gail & Walter Orenstein
Tom Orlando
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Adolph & Jane Pekarul
Bruce H. Person
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Here's what two happy readers said about the *Sheffield Times*!

We are longtime residents of Sheffield. Adolph was born in Sheffield in 1918. He and his family operated Barnum Hill Farm on Barnum St. for 35 years. We have six children educated at Center School and Mt. Everett. They have made us proud. The oldest, a 1958 graduate of Mt. Everett is a retired airline pilot. The other five each have a master's degree in different fields. The youngest is a college professor here in Minnesota.

We are all proud to say we lived in Sheffield and enjoy the *Sheffield Times*.

—Adolph & Jane Pekarul

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
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